



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

THE OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920  
KANSAS DIVISION, SCV • JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Vol. 22, No 12

December 2021

## Major Thomas J. Key

### Camp Officers

#### Commander

Matt Sewell

#### 1st Lt. Commander

Vacant

#### 2nd Lt. Commander

Dan Peterson

#### Adjutant

Lawson Rener

#### Chaplin

Walt Schley

Newsletter Editor

Rick McPherson

## The Confederate's Corner

By Rick McPherson

Greetings to all compatriots and friends of the **Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920**.

*Recap of camp business of November 4, 2021 meeting.*

**Commander Sewell** brought the meeting to order presenting new business which included the Ottawa parade (we declined to participate), the upcoming Wreaths Across America at Fort Leavenworth which **Walt Schley** will be coordinating, and a reminder of the January Lee-Jackson banquet.

A brief discussion was held regarding the camp's web page and the next billing that was coming due. It was determined that with the new Facebook page costing nothing versus a \$395 cost for the web page, that we will discontinue that page while searching for a lower cost alternative or eliminate a web page all-together.

The only fundraiser for the Key Camp is the **Lee-Jackson Day Banquet and Auction**. Leading the effort to collect donations for the auction will be Compatriots **Walt McKenzie, Larry Tatum & Dan Peterson**.

Please contact them to donate item to auction.

Walt -mounthaskins@icloud.com

Larry – larrytatum@aol.com

Dan – dpeterson4951@gmail.com



The annual wreath laying for **Wreaths Across America** will be held December 18<sup>th</sup> at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. In 2020 The Key Camp was represented by **Compatriots Walt Schley, Gary Foster** (MOH recipient Charles Hagemeister), **Dan Peterson and Rick McPherson**.

**November Presentation presented by Compatriot Walt McKenzie**



**The back of Lane's head**



**Walt keeping it lighthearted**



**Capt. McKenzie C.S.A.**

**Compatriot Walt McKenzie** spoke to those gathered at last month's camp meeting about his great uncle, Captain Fountain McKenzie and George Washington Carver. Captain McKenzie's story included his time in San Quentin prison (as a Director and Warden), and his service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Cavalry (CSA). He would lose his life at the Battle of Carthage in 1861.

*(A motion to promote Captain McKenzie to "General" was not acted upon by Walt's fellow Compatriots but will instead be left to his family to decide how he will be remembered.)*

Walt continued his presentation detailing the life of George Washington Carver who became an inventor and agricultural scientist. Carver was born into slavery in Diamond, Missouri one year before it was outlawed. He earned multiple college degrees and would educate others at Tuskegee Institute. A monument to his accomplishments now stands in Diamond, Missouri.



GW Carver as a youth



Not just the "Peanut Man"



Teacher and Lecturer



*(Reprinted from last month's newsletter)*

To Our Friends and Members of Camp #1920.

**Greetings!**

***The annual Jackson- Lee banquet will be held in just over a month. This event is our only fundraiser that we hold. The proceeds go toward our goals of preserving our heritage. We have had tremendous response through the years of donated items for auction. Please continue to be so generous & gracious. Donations can be brought to our next meeting and we will prepare them for the January banquet. Arrangements can also be made for pickup at your location.***

***We have had a varied assortment of items to auction in past years. Please check your closets, garages, basement & other places for auction items. This is so very vital to the health of our organization. The auction committee consists of **Walt McKenzie, Larry Tatum & Dan Petersen**. Please contact Walt at 913-888-0666 for pickups & or any questions you might have.***

***Thank you for continued support of our cause.***

***Walt***

*A. S. Quartermaster's Office*  
*Apr 10<sup>th</sup> 1865*  
 Genl Order No 9  
 After four years of arduous  
 service marked by unsurpassed  
 courage and fortitude, the  
 A. N. V. has been compelled  
 to yield to overwhelming  
 numbers and resources, &  
 I need not tell the brave  
 survivors of so many hard  
 fought battles who have  
 remained steadfast to the  
 last, that I have consented  
 to this result from no dis-  
 trust of them. But feeling  
 that valor and devotion  
 could accomplish nothing  
 that would compensate  
 for the loss that must have  
 attended the continuance  
 of the contest, I have determined

to avoid the sacrifice of those  
 whose past services have  
 endeared them to their  
 countrymen.  
 By the terms of agreement  
 officers and men can  
 return to their homes and  
 remain until discharged.  
 You will take with you the  
 satisfaction that proceeds  
 from the conscientious  
 duty faithfully performed  
 and I earnestly pray that  
 a merciful God will extend to  
 you his blessing and protection  
 with an unceasing admiration  
 of your constancy and devotion  
 to your country and a grateful  
 remembrance of your kind  
 and generous consideration  
 of myself. I bid you an affec-  
 tionate farewell. R. E. Lee

## Last Order of General Robert E. Lee

Headquarters Army of Northern  
 Virginia  
 April 10, 1865

### General Order Number 9.

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them. But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I have determined to avoid sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remain until discharged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray the merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection. With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and general consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

R. E. Lee, General

## Jefferson Davis and Proclamations of Thanksgiving

During the war years, it was fairly common for presidents, or army commanders, or a congress to call for days of thanksgiving after a military victory. Braxton Bragg called for such a day on September 18, 1862, following the surrender of 4,000 Federal soldiers at Munfordville, Kentucky, the previous day. Robert E. Lee, following Braxton Bragg's victory at Chickamauga, called on his men to render "to the Great Giver of Victory... our praise and thanksgiving for this signal manifestation of His favor..." Nathan Bedford Forrest, writing from Tupelo, Mississippi, declared "Chaplains in the ministration of the gospel are requested to remember our personal preservation with thanksgiving and especially to beseech the Throne of Grace for aid in this our country's hour of need," on May 14, 1864. There were calls for the governor of South Carolina to have a public day of Thanksgiving following the battle of Fort Sumter in April 1861. This was followed by a call from the Confederate Congress for a day of Thanksgiving on the Sunday following the battle of First Manassas. There are undoubtedly others.

Jefferson Davis would issue at least ten such calls for prayer, fasting, and/or thanksgiving during the war. June 13, 1861 was one of the first, a call for a day of prayer and thanksgiving. On February 20, 1862, a proclamation on the "termination of the Provisional Government offers a fitting occasion to present ourselves in humiliation, prayer and thanksgiving before that God who has safely conducted us through the first year of our national existence."

On September 18 came another proclamation, this time thanking "Almighty God for the great mercies vouchsafed to our people, and more especially for the late triumphs of our arms at

Richmond and Manassas. The text is copied below:

*THANKSGIVING DAY 1862 for victory in battle  
BY JEFFERSON DAVIS*

*To the People of the Confederate States:  
Once more upon the plains of Manassas have our armies been blessed by the Lord of Hosts with a triumph over our enemies. It is my privilege to invite you once more to His footstool, not now in the garb of fasting and sorrow, but with joy and gladness, to render thanks for the great mercies received at His hand. A few months since, and our enemies poured forth their invading legions upon our soil. They laid waste our fields, polluted our altars and violated the sanctity of our homes. Around our capital they gathered their forces, and with boastful threats, claimed it as already their prize. The brave troops which rallied to its defense have extinguished these vain hopes, and, under the guidance of the same almighty hand, have scattered our enemies and driven them back in dismay. Uniting these defeated forces and the various armies which had been ravaging our coasts with the army of invasion in Northern Virginia, our enemies have renewed their attempt to subjugate us at the very place where their first effort was defeated, and the vengeance of retributive justice has overtaken the entire host in a second and complete overthrow. To this signal success accorded to our arms in the East has been graciously added another equally brilliant in the West. On the very day on which our forces were led to victory on the Plains of Manassas, in Virginia, the same Almighty arm assisted us to overcome our enemies at Richmond, in Kentucky. Thus, at one and the same time, have two great hostile armies been stricken down, and the wicked designs of their armies been set at naught.*

*In such circumstances, it is meet and right that, as a people, we should bow down in adoring thankfulness to that gracious God who has been our bulwark and defense, and to offer unto him the tribute of thanksgiving and praise. In his hand is the issue of all events, and to him should we, in an especial manner, ascribe the honor of this great deliverance.*

*Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, do issue this, my proclamation, setting apart Thursday, the 18th day of September inst., as a day of prayer*

*and thanksgiving to Almighty God for the great mercies vouchsafed to our people, and more especially for the triumph of our arms at Richmond and Manassas; and I do hereby invite the people of the Confederate States to meet on that day at their respective places of public worship, and to unite in rendering thanks and praise to God for these great mercies, and to implore Him to conduct our country safely through the perils which surround us, to the final attainment of the blessings of peace and security.*

*Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, this fourth day of September, A.D. 1862.*

Davis would submit other days for official days of thanksgiving. One came in January 1863, following the victory at Fredericksburg the

previous December. Another came in March 1863. "In obedience to His precepts, we have from time to time been gathered together with prayer and thanksgiving, and he has been graciously pleased to hear our supplications, and to grant abundant exhibitions of His favor to our armies and our people," Davis wrote.

Even though there were Confederate victories in 1864, such as Olustee, Kennesaw Mountain, Brice's Crossroads, and Monocacy, there were fewer calls for days of thanksgiving. There were calls for days of prayer, humiliation, and fasting. One of these latter decrees came from the Confederate Congress in March. Another came in February 1865. It would be one of the last.

## ONE MORE THING!

Congratulations to Key Camp Compatriot and **Chaplain, Walt Schley** on his election to the Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans as Commander. Walt succeeds interim **Commander Lawson Renner** who will return to his position as Lieutenant Commander and **Rick McPherson** will serve as the Chief of Staff. **Commander Schley** will preside over the Kansas Division Convention is scheduled for June 17-18 in Topeka, Kansas where the membership of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will hopefully plan to attend to support him and the Kansas Division.



<b>Rick McPherson</b>	<b>Walt Schley</b>	<b>Lawson Renner</b>	Dick Croft
Chief of Staff	Div. Commander	Lt Commander	Adjutant/Treas.



Major

# Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas  
Camp Activities

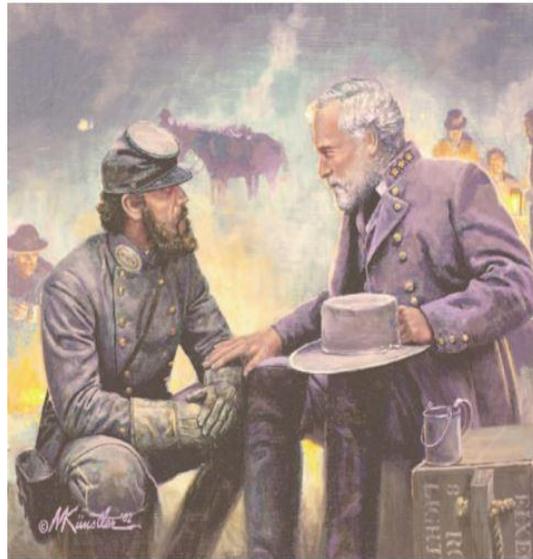


## Memorial Service for Compatriot **James L. "Spike" Speicher**

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM

St Lukes Episcopal Church

5325 Nieman Road Shawnee, KS 66203



### Lee – Jackson Banquet

January 2022

Abdullah Shrine Temple

5300 Metcalf Avenue Overland Park, Kansas 66202

*As always, we encourage your participation in your Camp's activities.  
Email **Commander Sewell** for more information on any events you are interested in assisting*



**\*\*\*\*\*NEXT CAMP MEETING\*\*\*\*\***

**Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup> Our Speaker will be Bill Stoker**

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday December 2nd at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivera in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation and camaraderie.

*The Telegraph Key* is a newsletter published for the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The SCV is a non-profit organization with a patriotism historical and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers and contributors and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the SCV, the Kansas Division, the Kansas Brigades, nor any other camp. Comments and articles are solicited.

**SCV National:** [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org)

**Facebook:** Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920

**Happy Thanksgiving**



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**Because It Won't Delete**  
**I Have Nothing More To Say**